

Message Text

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SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF LUIS CORVALAN AND VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY

1. GOC SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL BEJARES MORNING OF DECEMBER 18 RELEASED A LOW KEY STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE USSR'S "ACCEPTANCE" OF THE LIBERATION OF DISSIDENT VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THAT OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY LUIS CORVALAN. THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE US AND SWISS GOVERNMENTS, OF ICEM AND THE COPENHAGEN SAKHAROV COMMITTEE. AND IT ASKED FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO BE APPLIED ON CUBA SO THAT CUBAN PRISONER HUBERT MATOS AND CHILEAN COMMUNIST JORGE MONTES ("THE ONLY DETAINEE IN CHILE" UNDER STATE OF SIEGE AUTHORITY) MAY BE RELEASED. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. "1. ON REPEATED OCCASIONS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM FOR FREEING THOSE DETAINED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE, THE GOC HAS CHALLENGED THE USSR AND CUBA TO RELEASE A LIKE NUMBER OF DETAINEES, WITH THERE HAVING BEEN NO FAVORABLE
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RESPONSE TO DATE.

"2. ON NOVEMBER 16, 1976, THE GOC, IN A SOVEREIGN ACT, DECREED THE RELEASE OF ALL PERSONS DETAINED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF SIEGE. THIS DECISION BEGAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY, EXCEPTING ONLY THE FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE

COMMUNIST PARTY, LUIS CORVALAN LEPE, AND A LEADER OF THAT SAME PARTY, JORGE MONTES, PENDING THE RELEASE OF THE WRITER VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY BY THE USSR AND MAJOR HUBERT MATOS BY CUBA.

"3. THE USSR ACCEPTED THE RELEASE OF BUKOVSKY IN THE MANNER PROPOSED BY THE GOC. THE PROCEDURAL DETAILS WERE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE COOPERATION AND PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG.

"4. THE SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE TOOK PLACE AT THE AIRPORT OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, TODAY, 18 DECEMBER 1976, AT 1245 HOURS ZURICH TIME (0845 HOURS CHILEAN TIME) IN THE PRESENCE OF THE AMBASSADORS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE USSR IN SWITZERLAND AND OF THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR/COORDINATOR IN EUROPE, DON ABELARDO SILVA.

"5. CORVALAN TRAVELED TO ZURICH WITH HIS WIFE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONTINUED ON TO THE USSR, WHILE BUKOVSKY ARRIVED IN ZURICH IN THE COMPANY OF HIS MOTHER.

"6. THE GOC MUST EXPRESS ITS RECOGNITION OF THE COLLABORATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE USA AND SWITZERLAND, AS WELL AS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) AND THE SAKHAROV COMMITTEE OF COPENHAGEN IN THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF BUKOVSKY.

"7. WITH THE ABOVE, THE HUMANITARIAN AND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES WHICH INSPIRE THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND WHICH ARE PRAGMATICALLY EXPRESSED IN THE HIGH DECISIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT FIND A JUST, WORTHY, AND FAITHFUL EXPRESSION. AS A CONSEQUENCE, AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS MOMENT OF EXEMPLARY MEANING FOR ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, THERE REMAINS ONLY ONE DETAINEE IN CHILE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE OF SIEGE: JORGE MONTES, WHO IS STILL WAITING FOR A SIMILAR REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA, BY WHICH IT WOULD FREE THE LEADER HUBERT MATOS.

"8. AS IT DID IN ITS STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 16, THE GOC, INVOKING THE SACRED RIGHT OF MANKIND TO LIVE IN FREEDOM, REITERATES ITS CALL TO THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO THE HIGHEST RELIGIOUS AND GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD, TO MEDIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FREEDOM OF HUBERT MATOS WITHIN A BASIC FRAMEWORK OF GENUINE RECIPROCITY TOWARDS THE ELEVATED ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY OUR COUNTRY."
POPPER

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